AUGUST

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AUGUST MEETING
Date: Wednesday, August 16, 8:15 p.m.
Place: Morrison Auditorium
Speaker: Dr. Lawrence W. Swan
Subject: "ACROSS THE NEPAL HIMALAYAS"

Having been born and having received his early education in the area, Dr. Swan's interest in the Himalayas has been a continuing thing. In 1954 he was a member of the American Himalaya Expedition to Makalu. Again, in 1960, he was a member of the expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary on a journey which was followed with interest by the entire world.

Dr. Swan travelled by foot from Katmandu, the capitol of Nepal, to Darjeeling, near Sikkim in northern India - photographing all the way. In his lecture which is illustrated with color slides, he touches on the people, the places and the zoogeography of this remote area.

Dr. Swan is a Research Associate in Herpetology at the Academy and an Associate Professor at San Francisco State College. Academy host for the evening is Dr. Alan E. Leviton and the Department of Herpetology.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"MAN INTO SPACE!", the astronomy show which affords its audiences the excitement of joining the astronauts, continues through Labor Day, September 4.

Shows are given daily at 2:15, 3:30 and 8:30 p.m., with an extra show at 1:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and on September 4. Admission: Adults, 75¢, Juniors, 40¢.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE WORLD BENEATH THE SEA", unusual underwater color photographs by Verne E. Peckham and S.K. Santmyers, Jr., continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature through September 4th.

"GERANIUMS AND PELARGONIUMS", water colors by John Newton, continues in the Eastwood Hall of Botany through the month of August.

"PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE CIVIL WAR", black and white photographs by various photographers including Mathew Brady, will be on display in the main foyer of the Planetarium building through August 20. Admission to the foregoing exhibits is free.

"SCIENCE IN ACTION" returns to the air Monday evening, Sept. 11, 7:00 p.m., KRON-TV, Channel 4.

NEWS and NOTES

Dr. Leo G. Hertlein and Allyn G. Smith attended the 14th Annual Conference of the American Malacological Union, Pacific Division, held in Santa Barbara. Dr. Hertlein presented a paper authored by him and Dr. G. Dallas Hanna, "Large Terebra in the Eastern Pacific", and Mr. Smith presented two: "Chitons in Color" which featured color photographs made with special equipment designed in the Academy's Instrument Shop; and "The Eastman Short Run Process for Scientific Illustration", the Academy's unusual method of reproducing color photographs.

The meeting was attended by some 100 West Coast conchologists and malacologists.

Dr. Hans Leschke of San Francisco has presented the Department of Botany with a large collection of plants from Lassen Volcanic National Park. The specimens, collected from 1945 through 1960, will be incorporated in the Academy's herbarium. Dr. Leschke is a Research Associate in the Department of Botany.

The Department of Herpetology has received a small but important collection of amphibians and reptiles from central Afghanistan. The collection was made by the Department's Field Associate, John Gasperetti.

Mr. Helbert Guevara Mayorga, Director of Printing at the University of Costa Rica at San José, Costa Rica, was a visitor to the Academy during the month of July. Mr. Guevara was particularly interested in the methods of color printing used in Academy publications.

Beginning October 1, "Science in Action" will be seen in Hong Kong. Rediffusion (Hong Kong) Ltd., a British concern and the only television station in that area, has contracted with the Academy for 26 weeks of showings of "S in A". The program will be presented in English and Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese.

The arrangements for these showings were effected by Benjamin Draper, Executive Producer of "Science in Action", during his recent business trip to the Orient.

Through a gift of money from Mr. Carroll Soo Hoo of Berkeley, Steinhart Aquarium now has a Bolex motion picture camera. It is equipped with a wide angle (56 degree) f-1.8 lens which will provide the means for doing precision photography in the Aquarium.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE ACADEMY
"A FLORA OF
LASSEN VOLCANIC NATIONAL PARK"
by George W. Gillett, John Thomas Howell and Hans Leschke. 190 pages. Maps.
$3.25. Price includes tax and mailing.

Attendance at the special student shows given in the Planetarium during 1960-61 came extremely close to the all-time record established in 1958-59. 54,769 students attended during the past year. This was an increase of 1,871 over the preceding year, and only 473 less than the record attendance figure of 1959.

Through a grant from the Pacific Division, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Miss Mary Jo Ryan, a volunteer assistant in the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, is working on a detailed study of marine invertebrate life in the San Francisco Yacht Harbor. Miss Ryan's investigations will become part of her master's degree project at San Francisco State College.

Dr. Henry Howden, a specialist in scarabaeid beetles, was a recent visitor to the Academy. Dr. Howden of the Canadian National Collection in Ottowa, Canada, spent two weeks in studying Academy collections.

No meeting of the Astronomy Section is scheduled for the month of August. The next monthly meeting will be a "Star Party" on Saturday, September 9 at 6:00 p.m. at Rock Springs (across from the outdoor theatre) on Mt. Tamalpais. Members are again advised to dress in warm clothes.

Meet the Staff

EDWARD L. KESSEL, Associate Curator of the Department of Entomology, earned his first spending money unwinding the cocoons of silkworms he had raised himself. At an early age, his missionary parents had taken him to Natal in southeastern Africa and it was there that a lifelong interest in natural history and science was born. From the silk he unwound, he made bookmarks. Price: sixpence.

After eight years in Africa, the young Edward in company with his brother (now Dr. John Kessel of the UCLA Medical School) returned to the U. S. and Greenville, Illinois. A year later, the brothers were joined by their parents and the family moved to California. The logical step for the youthful scientist from Ripon High School was the University of California campus at Berkeley from which he received his B.S., M.S., and doctoral degrees. He taught biology at Marquette University in Milwaukee and then joined the faculty at the University of San Francisco where he has remained. There, he is a Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Department.

Dr. Kessel joined the Academy's staff in 1942. In addition to being Associate Curator he is Editor of the Academy's Proceedings and Occasional Papers. His particular scientific interest is the Platypezidae (flat-footed flies) and his search for information about this family has taken him on hundreds of field trips over a period of 15 years. He anticipates completing a monograph on this group in about three years.

With his wife Berta, he is active in civic and church affairs in Novato in Marin County. He is a member of the Council of Civic Unity, Urban League, and is on a commission of the Northern California-Nevada Council of Churches on Racial and Cultural Relations.

The Kessel's are proud of the fact that they constructed their home in Novato with their four hands. Gardening is a happy divertissement when the "flat-footed flies" allow.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY

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